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GILLINGHAM



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

for the Year ended 31st December, 1956

By

M. L. DUNLOP, M.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health



1957



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M. L. DUNLOP, M.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health

1957

Health Department,
Municipal Buildings,
Gillingham, Kent.

September, 1957.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1956.

The birth rate was 15.4 per 1,000 of the civilian population compared with 14.0 in 1955.

The death rate was 10.5 per 1,000 of the civilian population and the death rate of infants under one year was 19.2 per 1,000 live births, the lowest recorded figure for the Borough, compared with 33.8 in the previous year.

It was a particularly satisfactory year for infectious diseases. One case of poliomyelitis was notified, no cases of diphtheria and a reduced number of scarlet fever cases. Measles and whooping cough were also very few in number.

Further progress was made in slum clearance during the year. Ten clearance areas comprising 90 houses and details in respect of the condition of 62 houses were represented to the Health Committee.

I take this opportunity of thanking the Council for their support and my staff for the assistance they have rendered me.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

M. L. DUNLOP,

Medical Officer of Health.

STAFF—PUBLIC HEALTH AND EDUCATION DEPARTMENTS

Medical Officer of Health :

*Meta L. Dunlop, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Assistant Medical Officers : (School Health Service)

R. I. Porter (part-time).
J. Rofley (part-time).
L. M. Corall (part-time).
N. Browne (part-time).

Ophthalmologist : (School Health Service)

J. E. Clark (part-time).

Dental Surgeons : (School Health Service)

William C. Griffiths, L.D.S., R.C.S.
H. de V. Davis, L.D.S., R.C.S. (part-time).
N. K. Thorn, L.D.S. R.C.S. (part-time).

Chief Public Health Inspector :

*F. J. Hedgecock, M.R.S.H., M.S.I.A., Cert. Inst. Mun.E.

Public Health Inspectors :

*R. C. Langley, M.S.I.A.
*F. G. Barney, A.R.S.H., M.S.I.A.
*A. G. Brimble, M.S.I.A.
*N. Smith, M.S.I.A.
*A. Hinkley, M.S.I.A. (resigned 7/7/56).
*G. J. H. Roscow, A.R.S.H., M.S.I.A.

Health Visitors : (School Health Service)

N. Legg, S.R.N., S.C.M., Health Visitor's Cert.
P. W. May, S.R.N., S.C.M., R.S.C.N. (commenced 1/5/56).
J. Tombleson, S.R.N., S.C.M., Health Visitor's Cert.
E. W. Jordan, S.R.N., S.C.M., Health Visitor's Cert.
D. G. Pirt, S.R.N., S.C.M., Health Visitor's Cert.
P. Mordue, S.R.N., S.C.M., Health Visitor's Cert. (resigned 1/10/56).
S. Macdonald, S.R.N., S.C.M., Health Visitor's Cert. (resigned 1/10/56).
H. V. Wilson, S.R.N., S.C.M., Health Visitor's Cert.

Chief Clerk :

S. Pett.

Clerks :

J. Clark.
E. Dwyer.
R. C. Thomas (School Health Service).
† P. J. Beer (School Health Service).
B. McCauley.
V. Shepherd

Dental Attendants

L. Scott.
A. E. Turner.

Disinfector :

D. Easdown (resigned 31/8/56).
R. Daniels (commenced 1/9/56—part-time).

Rodent Operative :

W. E. Goodwin.

NOTES.

* Indicates officials to whose salaries contribution is made under Public Health Acts or by Exchequer Grants.

† One-half time to School Health Service., one-half time K.C.C.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area in acres (land, inland water and foreshore)...	11,201
Rateable Value (April, 1956) 	£806,159
The sum represented by a penny rate (1956-57)	£3,592
In 1955-56 the total Rates were 25/- in the £ (excluding water rates and charges).	

Extracts from Vital Statistics

Total Population (Registrar-General) ...	77,630
-----------------------------------------------	--------

Live Births

Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident civilian population 	15.4
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------

Still Births

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births ...	18.3
-----------------------------------------------------	------

Deaths (all causes)

Rate per 1,000 of the estimated civilian population 	10.5
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------

Deaths from Puerperal Causes

	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
Puerperal and post abortive sepsis 	0.00
Other Maternal Causes 	0.00
Total 	<hr/> 0.00 <hr/>

Death Rate of Infants Under One Year of Age

All Infants per 1,000 live births 	19.2
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births 	15.6
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births 	89.8

Deaths in Public Institutions

Two hundred and ninety-three or 36 per cent of the total, took place in Institutions.

Natural Increase of Population

This is measured by the excess of births over deaths. The figure for the year 1956 was 386 and for previous years as follows :—

Year								Natural Increase of Population
1947	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	647
1948	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	496
1949	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	325
1950	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	237
1951	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	251
1952	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	354
1953	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	332
1954	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	542
1955	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	339
1956	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	386

Cancer

						Cancer Death Rate.	Percentage of Total Deaths	
1947	...	...	...	...	...	1.9	...	15.0
1948	...	...	...	...	...	2.4	...	19.9
1949	...	...	...	...	...	2.1	...	15.9
1950	...	...	...	...	...	1.8	...	16.4
1951	...	...	...	...	...	1.6	...	14.6
1952	...	...	...	...	...	1.8	...	18.4
1953	...	...	...	...	...	1.6	...	17.1
1954	...	...	...	...	...	1.8	...	21.8
1955	...	...	...	...	...	1.7	...	18.2
1956	...	...	...	...	...	1.8	...	17.5

Violence

Deaths from motor vehicle accidents numbered 7, from suicide 12 and from "all other accidents" 13.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Smallpox

No cases were notified during 1956.

Scarlet Fever

Notifications numbered 35.3 cases were removed to hospital. There were no deaths.

Diphtheria

No cases were notified.

TABLE SHOWING NOTIFICATIONS OF DIPHTHERIA
From 1918 to 1956

Period	No. Notified	Deaths Registered.
1918-27	78 (Avg.)	—
1928	213	10
1929	179	17
1930	42	1
1931	19	1
1932	8	—
1933	17	1
1934	52	4
1935	27	5
1936	17	2
1937	42	1
1938	157	4
1939	86	1
1940	28	1
1941	5	—
1942	7	—
1943	3	—
1944	3	—
1945	2	—
1946	2	—
1947	NIL	—
1948	4	—
1949	NIL	—
1950	NIL	—
1951	NIL	—
1952	NIL	—
1953	NIL	—
1954	NIL	—
1955	NIL	—
1956	NIL	—

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA AND VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX, 1956

Immunisation Against Diphtheria, 1956.

The following is a return of the number of children resident in the Borough who were immunised against diphtheria during the year ended 31st December, 1956 :—

<i>Year of Birth</i>	<i>Primary Inoculations</i>	<i>Re-inforcing Inoculations</i>
1956	119	—
1955	539	—
1954	130	—
1953	31	2
1952	29	25
1951	36	406
1950	50	260
1949	27	96
1948	21	88
1947	28	441
1946	44	435
1945	35	508
1944	—	18
1943	—	7
1942	1	1
	<hr/> 1,090 <hr/>	<hr/> 2,287 <hr/>

The following table shows the number of children under the age of 15 years on 31st December 1956, who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date (i.e., at any time since 1st January 1942).

<i>Year of Birth</i>	<i>Last complete course of injections (primary or booster)</i>	<i>1951 or earlier</i>
	1952-1956	
1942	208	325
1943	293	479
1944	264	640
1945	762	298
1946	966	287

Immunisation Against Diphtheria 1956—*continued.*

1947	1,194	83
1948	689	249
1949	668	415
1950	670	318
1951	1,171	24
1952	839	—
1953	747	—
1954	745	—
1955	611	—
1956	119	—
	<hr/> 9,946 <hr/>	<hr/> 3,118 <hr/>

Vaccination.

The following is a return of the number of persons who were vaccinated against smallpox during the year ended 31st December 1956.

<i>Year of Birth</i>	<i>Primary Vaccination</i>	<i>Re-Vaccination</i>
1956	480	—
1955	282	2
1954	17	4
1953	15	11
1952	9	2
1951	4	4
1950	2	4
1949	7	5
1948	5	6
1947	6	2
1946	2	7
1945	2	3
1944	4	3
1943	1	3
1942	1	—
Before 1941	33	78
	<hr/> 870 <hr/>	<hr/> 134 <hr/>

Puerperal Pyrexia

2 cases were notified. The patients recovered.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum

2 cases were notified, and made a complete recovery.

Enteric Fever Group

No cases were notified.

Dysentery

4 cases were notified.

Anterior Poliomyelitis

1 case was notified. The patient made a complete recovery.

Pneumonia

21 cases were notified.

Measles and Whooping Cough

			Number of cases notified		Deaths
Measles	12	—
Whooping Cough	72	—

Disinfections

Houses disinfected by Formalin spraying in connection with tuberculosis cases numbered 79 compared with 147 in the previous year.

Tuberculosis

Notification of new cases :—

				Pulmonary Rate per 1,000 of population	Non-Pulmonary Rate per 1,000 of population
1947	...	...	...	1.69	0.3
1948	...	...	...	1.05	0.3
1949	...	...	...	1.07	0.2
1950	...	...	...	0.86	0.1
1951	...	...	...	0.8	0.1
1952	...	...	...	0.9	0.1
1953	...	...	...	1.4	0.1
1954	...	...	...	0.8	0.1
1955	...	...	...	0.8	0.05
1956	...	...	...	0.9	0.04

PUBLIC HEALTH (TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS 1930

					Pulmonary	Non- Pulmonary	Total
Number on Register at 1st January,							
1956	...	...	...	...	588	85	673
Number on Register at 31st Decem-							
ber, 1956	...	...	...	...	609	79	688

Notifications

Table compiled from local records, giving details with regard to sex, age, etc., of notified new cases during 1956.

Age Periods	New Cases			
	Respiratory		Non- Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 5 years	3	1	1	—
5—14 years	2	1	—	—
15—24 „	14	12	—	1
25—44 „	7	13	—	—
45—64 „	15	2	—	—
65 and over	5	—	—	1
Total ...	46	29	1	2

Tuberculosis Death Rate

The following table is inserted for purposes of comparison :

Year	Death Rates per 1,000 of Population		
	All Forms	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
1947	0.71	0.58	0.13
1948	0.61	0.55	0.06
1949	0.50	0.47	0.03
1950	0.39	0.33	0.06
1951	0.36	0.31	0.05
1952	0.21	0.16	0.05
1953	0.16	0.13	0.03
1954	0.09	0.09	0.00
1955	0.03	0.02	0.01
1956	0.10	0.08	0.02

Particulars of patients from the Gillingham Area dealt with at the Chest Clinic, during 1956.

(These figures were kindly supplied by Dr. S. R. C. Price, Chest Physician).

	Adults		Children		Total	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Pulmonary	39	23	6	3	45	26
Non-pulmonary ...	—	2	1	—	1	2
Total	39	25	7	3	46	28

Total attendances numbered 2,358.

Number of patients sent to Sanatoriums or Hospitals—62.

Venereal Diseases

I am indebted to Dr. C. D. Routh, Director of the Medway and Gravesend Hospital Management Committee's Special Clinic in Rochester, for the subjoined figures.

New Patients—Gillingham :

	Male	Female	Total
Syphilis	5	5	10
Gonorrhœa	8	7	15
Non-Venereal	32	19	51
Totals ...	45	31	76

Attendances of Gillingham patients—931

Infant Mortality

Deaths of infants under 1 year numbered 23, which represents an infant mortality rate of 19.2 per 1,000 births.

The rate for England and Wales was 23.8 per 1,000 relative live-births and was the lowest ever recorded in this country.

Maternal Mortality

There were no deaths associated with pregnancy.

ANALYSIS OF INFANT DEATHS DURING 1956

CAUSE OF DEATH (Local register)	AGE AT DEATH									
	Under 1 week	1 and under 2 weeks	2 and under 3 weeks	3 and under 4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1 and under 3 months	3 and under 6 months	6 and under 9 months	9 and under 12 months	Total under 1 year
Prematurity	6	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	6
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	1	—	5
Meningitis	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	2
Atelectasis	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Congenital malformations	3	2	1	—	6	—	—	—	1	7
Other causes	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	2
ALL CAUSES	10	3	1	1	15	5	—	1	2	23

ANALYSIS OF BIRTHS AND INFANT DEATHS FOR THE YEARS 1947 TO 1956

	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Number of still births	39	25	15	21	33	30	20	23	28	22
Number of neo-natal deaths	33	21	28	23	20	23	19	19	23	15
Total number of still births and neo-natal deaths	72	46	43	44	53	53	39	42	51	37
Number of deaths of infants 1 to 12 months of age	32	14	14	14	10	3	9	12	14	8
Number of live births	1446	1261	1154	1046	1065	1104	1050	1103	1093	1199
Number of still births	39	25	15	21	33	30	20	23	28	22
Total live and still births	1485	1286	1169	1067	1098	1134	1070	1126	1121	1221

MORTALITY RATES CALCULATED PER 1,000 LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS

Still births	26	19	13	20	30	26	19	20	25	18
Neo-natal deaths	22	16	24	21	18	20	18	17	20	12
Deaths of infants 1 to 12 months of age	22	11	12	13	9	3	8	11	12	6
Still births and all deaths up to 1 year	71	47	49	54	57	49	45	48	58	37
Infant mortality per 1,000 live births	45	28	36	35	28	23	27	28	34	19

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply.

Is provided by the Medway Water Board and thirty-four water samples were taken during the year; 15 from the Gillingham area and 19 from the Rainham area. All proved satisfactory.

22,603 dwellings are supplied directly from the mains, this is 99.9% of the total number of dwellings in the Borough, which consist of :—

Houses	...	...	...	...	21,453
Houses and shops		...	...	...	594
Houses and business premises	...		...	...	479
Licensed houses	...	...	...	...	86
Boarding houses	...	...	...	...	6
Total dwellings					22,618

Drainage and Sewerage.

The district is main drained to a sewage works situated within this Borough at Motney Hill. The sewage disposal plant is also used jointly by the Rochester and Chatham authorities.

There has been a considerable extension of the main sewers during the year but this generally has been for the purpose of estate development.

Some isolated parts of the district remain unsewered and for the houses in these areas a cesspool emptying service is provided.

Refuse Disposal.

The collection and disposal of house and trade refuse is administered by the Borough Engineer. There is a fleet of modern vehicles. Disposal takes place, by controlled tipping, in a chalk quarry in a residential section of the district. Great care is exercised in order to prevent any circumstance arising that might be detrimental to public health.

Public Health Inspection.

This portion of the report has been prepared by Mr. F. J. Hedgecock, Chief Public Health Inspector.

Foreword.

There has been a considerable decrease in the number of applications for Certificates of Disrepair during the year 1956; 8 compared with 73 for the previous year. This has given the opportunity for Housing Act procedure to be applied in relation to premises where disrepair certificates have been granted.

I am able to report that a satisfactory year has been experienced from the aspect of food hygiene. It has been the departments' policy to pursue an educational course for food handlers and I am pleased to be able to state that a great deal of co-operation has been received from all persons concerned.

The unfortunate domestic conditions under which a number of aged persons exist, is a matter of considerable concern to the department.

The shortage of inspectorial staff continues to retard systematic progress in improving environmental conditions. This is not only a local problem but also a national one.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

On the register of food shops there are 609 premises from which food is sold excluding public houses, off licences, chemists and clubs. These comprise as follows:—

- 42 Cafés and Kitchens.
- 30 Fishmongers.
- 34 Bakers, Pastry Cooks and Confectioners.
- 64 Butchers' Shops, including three travelling shops.
- 118 Grocers, including four multiple shops and two travelling shops.
- 65 Fruiterers and Greengrocers.
- 256 General Shops.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

Particulars of samples taken by the Public Health Inspectors during the year:—

Article.	No. of Samples.	Article.	No. of Samples.
Arrowroot	1	Liquid Paraffin	1
Aspirin	1	Lemonade Powder	2
Black Treacle	1	Lemon Juice	2
Baking Powder	1	Luncheon Meat	1
Bicarbonate of Soda	1	Meringue Mixture	1
Balsam of Aniseed	1	Meat Pie	2
Butter	3	Milk	69
Biscuits	1	Margarine	3
Cake	1	Meat & Fish Pastes	6
Cake & Bun Mixes	15	Mixed Spices	7
Castor Oil	2	Marzipan	3
Camphorated Oil	1	Monosodium Glutamate... ..	1
Coffee	2	Olive Oil	1
Cough Mixtures	2	Puddings & Pudding	
Condensed Milk	3	Mixes	2
Custard & Blancmange		Pickles & Sauces	12
Powders	1	Pepper	5
Chemical Food	1	Peanut Butter	1
Cremola Crystals	1	Sweets	23
Curry Powder	2	Sausage & Sausage Meat	10
Desiccated Coconut	1	Semolina	1
Demerara Sugar... ..	1	Soft Drinks	7
Flavouring Essences	10	Sterilised Milk	2
Flour	1	Spreads	3
Grapefruit Juice... ..	1	Soup	1
Gravy Salt	2	Sterilised Cream	1
Ground Rice	3	Syrup of Figs	1
Ground Almonds	2	Table Jelly	3
Glycerine of Borax	1	Tapioca	1
Ginger Wine	1	Vegetable Salad	1
Ice Cream	6	Vinegar	9
Jams	4		

Total number of samples taken 258.

These were analysed by the Public Analyst and no samples were certified as adulterated.

The subjoined table shows the premises on the registers and the number of inspections made.

	On Register 31st Dec.	No. of visits during 1956
Bakehouses	9	58
Dairies and Milkshops	12	322
Retailers of bottled sterilised milk	157	
Fried Fish Shops	25	87
Pressed and Preserved Meat Premises	63	90
Premises registered for Ice Cream:—		
(a) Sale... ..	240	422
(b) Manufacture	4	

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Total
Number inspected ...	70	31	19	210	1,136	1,466
All Diseases except Tuber- culosis—						
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	3	—	3
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	8	5	—	10	70	93
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	11.4	16.1	—	6.2	6.2	—
Tuberculosis Only—						
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	12	3	—	—	7	22
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	17.1	9.7	—	—	.62	—

Unsound Food

Amount of food condemned weighed 3 tons 11 cwt and 63 lbs. This included tinned foods, flour, cheese and hams.

Housing Summary

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year :—

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	1423
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	4478
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Regulations	549
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	1072
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	57
(4)		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	31

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	149
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----

3. Action under statutory powers during the year :—

(a) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	335
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
	(a) By owners	177
	(b) By local authority in default of owners	6

(b) Proceedings under Housing Act :—

(1)	Demolition Orders	32
(2)	Closing Orders	20
(3)	Undertakings not to re-let for human habitation	5
(4)	Houses demolished during 1956 as the result of formal action under the Act ...	4

Preliminary and Abatement Notices

During the year the following notices were served :—

Informal Notices for the abatement of various nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	...	204
Abatement Notices concerning various nuisances (Section 93 of the Public Health Act, 1936)	...						31
Section 24 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (Maintenance of a public sewer)	...	...	...	...	...		61
Section 39 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (Defective sanitary appliance)	...	...	...	...	...		29
Section 44 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (Construction of W.C.)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Section 45 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (Notice to repair defective closet)	...	...	...	...	...		4
Section 50 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (Leaking Cesspools)	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Gillingham Corporation Act, 1931, Section 72, respecting choked or defective drains	...	...	...	...	...		17
Section 56 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (Yard Paving)							2
Section 75 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (Provision of Dustbins)	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936 (notice to execute works).	...	...	...	...	...	...	39
Total	...	...	...				391

Nuisances Abated

Water Closets :

Lavatory basins provided	...	...	...	...	2
New pans and traps fitted	...	...	...	...	30
Water closets re-built	...	...	...	...	1
New water closets constructed	...	...	...	...	—
Water closet fittings repaired (water)	...	...	...	...	56
Water closet seats, doors, floors, brickwork repaired...	...	...	...	...	31

Water Supply :

Pipes repaired	...	...	...	...	3
Internal supply provided	...	...	...	...	1

Yards :

Drained and paved with cement concrete	5
----------------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

Sinks and Baths :

Glazed stoneware sinks fixed	...	...	...	...	20
Sink waste pipes provided and fixed	...	...	...	...	31

Drainage :

Drains repaired	...	...	...	...	95
Subsidiary sewers cleared by Health Department	...	...	...	...	723
Inspection chambers repaired	...	...	...	...	12
Cesspools emptied by Health Department	...	...	...	...	308

Dampness :

Roofs repaired and made watertight	...	...	...	...	188
Eaves guttering and down pipes provided or repaired	...	...	...	...	84
External walls protected from dampness	...	...	...	...	112
Internal walls repaired	...	...	...	...	120
Damp-proof courses inserted	...	...	...	...	54
Ventilation provided under floors	...	...	...	...	3
Forecourts paved with cement concrete	...	...	...	...	—

General

Disused cesspools filled in	...	...	...	...	2
Accumulation of refuse in yard removed	...	...	...	...	3
Dangerous cellar flaps repaired	...	...	...	...	—
Cooking ranges and coppers repaired	...	...	...	...	30
Sashes, doors, frames, floors, and stairs repaired	...	...	...	...	205
Ceilings repaired and distempered	...	...	...	...	109
Back additions underpinned and repaired	...	...	...	...	—
Dustbins provided	...	...	...	...	—

Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948.

The following Tables give details of the work carried out at factories, workplaces and premises used by outworkers.

I. INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	73	258	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	187	223	4	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)	3	3	—	—
Totals	263	484	4	—

II. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars	Number of cases in which Defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness	6	3	—	—	—
Overcrowding ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	2	2	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) Insufficient ...	1	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	3	—	—	—	—
Totals	13	6	—	—	—

Premises, Etc., Visited During 1956

	No. of Visits						
Milk shops and dairies and retailers of bottled sterilised milk							322
Refreshment houses or premises where food is prepared							3,850
Miscellaneous, including Pet Animals Act							495
Factories, workshops and workplaces							484
Re notified infectious diseases							75
Houses (filthy or verminous)							10
Piggeries and Stables							120
Animals kept so as to be a nuisance							40
Public lavatories							1,440
Drains tested							156
Complaints received							1,562

Merchandise Marks Act.

499 inspections were carried out and these were chiefly in connection with fresh and dried fruits and meat marking, 65 contraventions were observed and these infringements were immediately rectified upon verbal notice and warning being given.

Shops Acts.

1,184 inspections were carried out in order to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Act. On no occasion was it necessary to take statutory action but on many occasions advice was given in respect of the keeping of the various forms.

There are 968 shops on the register.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

	Rats	Mice
Number of complaints received ...	144	75
Infestations found	138	65
Infestations found on independent investigation	74	39

Action taken :—

Premises treated by Operator ...	212	104
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Sewer Treatment :—

Number of manholes treated ...	322
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Eradication of Bed-Bugs, Disinfections, etc.

The number of houses found to be infested was :—

Council Houses	11
Other Houses	42
Bedding removed and disinfected	376
Total number of rooms sprayed for Bugs, T.B., etc.	283
Total number of articles disinfected	2,317

Table showing:—(a) The distribution in age groups of infectious disease cases notified during 1956.
(b) The number removed to Hospital.

(Local Records).

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	CASES NOTIFIED (<i>Diagnosis Corrected</i>)							Removed to Hospital
	YEARS							
	All Ages	Under 5	5-14	15-44	45-64	65 and Over	Age Unknown	
Pneumonia ...	21	3	6	4	6	2	—	1
Erysipelas ...	3	—	1	—	1	1	—	—
Meningococcal Meningitis	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning ...	3	—	—	1	1	1	—	1

Table showing:—(a) The distribution in age groups of infectious disease cases notified during 1956.
 (b) The number removed to Hospital.

(Local Records).

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	CASES NOTIFIED (<i>Diagnosis Corrected</i>)										Removed to Hospital
	YEARS										
	All Ages	Under 1	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25 and Over	Age Unknown		
Scarlet Fever ...	35	—	7	8	18	—	1	1	—	3	
Whooping Cough...	72	4	14	18	32	2	—	2	—	—	
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	
Measles ...	12	—	5	3	2	1	—	—	1	—	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	
Dysentery	4	—	—	—	3	—	—	1	—	—	

**Causes of Deaths amongst Civilians, Live and Still Births
as provided by the Registrar-General:—**

CAUSES OF DEATH						Male	Female	Total
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	...	3	3	6
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	...	—	2	2
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
8.	Measles	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	—	3	3
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	...	13	4	17
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	...	23	9	32
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	...	—	15	15
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	...	—	4	4
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms...	...	...	...	...	44	30	74
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	...	2	4	6
16.	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	1	3	4
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	...	52	52	104
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	...	76	41	117
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	...	16	11	27
20.	Other heart disease	...	...	...	...	55	70	125
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	18	24	42
22.	Influenza	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	19	18	37
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	31	20	51
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	8	3	11
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	7	—	7
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	5	2	7
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	...	4	3	7
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	6	—	6
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	...	6	—	6
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	32	34	66
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	7	—	7
34.	All other accidents	...	...	...	...	9	4	13
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	6	6	12
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
ALL CAUSES						445	368	813
Deaths of Infants under 1 year :—								
Legitimate						13	5	18
Illegitimate						4	1	5
Total						17	6	23
Births				For Infant Mortality, etc.				
				M.	F.	Total		
LIVE BIRTHS :—								
Legitimate				571	572	1143		
Illegitimate				33	23	56		
Total				604	595	1199		
Still BIRTHS :—								
Legitimate				11	10	21		
Illegitimate				—	1	1		
Total				11	11	22		

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

Under the provisions of the Education Act, 1944, Gillingham is an "excepted district."

Number on School Roll	10,932
Average attendance December, 1956	9,995
" Periodic " cases examined	3,212
Total medical examinations	5,588
Visits to schools by nurses	367
Visits to homes by nurses	160
Inspections by school dentists	6,408
Treated by school dentists	3,176
Percentage of average attendance found verminous	1.5
Percentage of average attendance excluded for verminous conditions	0.3
Total attendances at various clinics (dental excluded)	3,910

Heights and Weights

Age	BOYS			GIRLS		
	Number examined	Average		Number examined	Average	
		Height in inches	Weight in lbs.		Height in inches	Weight in lbs.
4-5 years	86	42.3	42.2	66	42.7	41.7
5-6 "	459	43.9	44.5	407	43.0	43.1
6-7 "	52	46.0	49.0	50	45.5	47.1
7-8 "	43	49.3	56.3	39	49.0	53.0
8-9 "	86	49.9	58.6	92	50.3	57.9
9-10 "	—	—	—	—	—	—
10-11 "	318	55.1	76.2	345	53.8	75.2
11-12 "	190	56.8	78.8	209	56.5	79.9
12-13 "	54	59.3	89.2	—	—	—
13-14 "	41	61.3	98.3	—	—	—
14-15 "	236	64.9	111.5	234	63.2	113.1
15-16 "	170	65.8	115.1	35	63.4	113.2

Provision of Milk

Milk is provided free of charge to all school children. During December 8,890 children were supplied with milk each day. This represents 81.3% of the total number of children on the roll.

Infectious Diseases

The following summary gives the number of patients excluded during the years 1947-56 (Private schools included).

				Scarlet Fever Cases	Diphtheria Cases
1947	...	...	...	31	—
1948	...	...	...	17	4
1949	...	...	...	42	—
1950	...	...	...	51	—
1951	...	...	...	38	—
1952	...	...	...	119	—
1953	...	...	...	49	—
1954	...	...	...	42	—
1955	...	...	...	22	—
1956	...	...	...	10	—

Following-up by Nurses

The nurses paid 160 home visits, of which 7 were to make enquiries with regard to children suffering from infectious diseases.

Summary of Nurses Work

(1)	Total visits to schools	...	...	...	367
(2)	Attendances at routine medical inspections				181
(3)	Attendances at clinics	...	...	...	415
(4)	Visits to homes	...	...	...	160
(5)	Examination of heads and bodies re cleanliness	...	...	...	17,179
(6)	Notices sent re nits (children not excluded from school)	...	...	...	74
(7)	Notices sent re nits and vermin (children excluded from school)	...	...	...	37

Attendances at Treatment Clinics

			Balmoral Gardens	Rainham	Total 1956	Total 1955
Ringworm	...	...	35	—	35	46
Ear defects	...	...	308	28	336	135
Impetigo	...	...	256	42	298	357
Scabies	...	...	—	—	—	2
Other skin diseases	...	...	111	62	173	282
External eye disease	...	...	224	104	328	440
Other conditions	...	...	1,056	631	1,687	2,077
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	...	...	1,990	867	2,857	3,339
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Children suffering from the following conditions made first attendances for inspection :—

			Balmoral Gardens	Rainham	Total 1956	Total 1955
Catarrh, sore throats, colds etc.			20	11	31	35
Vermin of head or body, nits, etc.	...	...	48	24	72	66
Ringworm	...	...	9	—	9	7
Impetigo	...	...	47	16	63	71
Scabies	...	...	—	—	—	2
Other skin diseases	...	...	25	33	58	109
Defective vision, sore eyes, etc.			163	69	232	292
Nose and throat diseases	...		5	6	11	18
Tubercular and pretubercular conditions	...	...	3	1	4	1
Chorea	...	...	1	—	1	1
Epilepsy	...	...	—	—	—	—
Ear disease	...	...	29	14	43	50
Heart disease	...	...	3	3	6	6
Rheumatism	...	...	—	—	—	—
Deformities	...	...	6	18	24	20
Convalescents from infectious diseases	...	...	2	7	9	18
Other diseases and defects	...		266	225	491	497
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	...	...	627	427	1,054	1,193
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Orthoptic Clinic

During the year 26 cases were referred to St. William's Hospital, Rochester for the orthoptic treatment of children suffering from squint.

Nose and Throat Defects

93 children received operative treatment.

Ophthalmic Clinic

The work of the clinic may be summarised thus :—

Sessions held	...	...	...	...	...	52
Number of children examined for first time	...					187
Number of children re-examined	...	...				866
Total attendances	...	...	...	...		1,053
Glasses prescribed	...	...	...	...		306
Glasses not required or no change necessary	...					747
Referred to hospital	...	...	...	...		26

Handicapped Pupils requiring education at Special Schools or Boarding in Boarding Homes

1956	Blind	Partially sighted	Deaf	Partially deaf	Delicate	Physically handicapped	Educationally subnormal	Maladjusted	Epileptic	Total
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
In the calendar year :										
A. Handicapped Pupils newly placed in Special Schools or Homes	—	1	1	—	3	1	5	1	1	13
B. Handicapped Pupils newly assessed as requiring education at Special Schools or boarding in Homes ...	—	—	—	—	4	1	3	—	—	8
On or about 31st Jan. 1957 :—										
C. No. of Handicapped pupils from the area—										
(i) attending Special Schools as	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(a) Day Pupils	—	4	4	—	5	8	17	8	1	47
(b) Boarding Pupils ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(ii) boarded in Homes ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(iii) attending independent schools under arrangements made by the Authority	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL (C)	—	4	4	—	5	8	17	8	1	47
D. No. of Handicapped Pupils being educated under arrangements made under Section 56 of the Education Act, 1944—										
(i) in hospitals	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(ii) elsewhere	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(iii) at home	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	3
E. No. of Handicapped pupils from the area requiring places in special schools:—										
(i) Day	—	—	—	—	—	—	42	—	—	42
(ii) Boarding	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	4

Handicapped Pupils requiring education at Special Schools or Boarding in Boarding Homes—*continued*

Number of children reported during the year :—

(a) under Section 57(3) (excluding any returned under (b) )	...	...	1
(b) under Section 57(3) relying on Section 57(4)	...	...	—
(c) under Section 57(5)	...	...	3

of the Education Act, 1944.

Amount spent on arrangements under Section 56 of the Education Act, 1944, for the education of handicapped pupils in the financial year ended 31st March, 1956 £381

Uncleanliness

The average number of visits by nurses to school departments was 4. Total examinations numbered 17,179 and 167 individual children were found unclean.

The following percentages are interesting :—

Year	Percentage of average attendance found verminous				Percentage of average attendance excluded	
1947	11.5	...	...	2.9
1948	10.7	...	...	2.4
1949	8.5	...	...	2.2
1950	8.8	...	...	2.5
1951	6.7	...	...	2.4
1952	5.8	...	...	0.9
1953	4.2	...	...	0.9
1954	2.6	...	...	0.5
1955	1.8	...	...	0.4
1956	1.5	...	...	0.3

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS ACT, 1933 EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN

NUMBER OF MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS
BETWEEN 1st JANUARY, 1956 AND 31st DECEMBER, 1956.

Centre for Examination	No. of Children Examined	No. of Certificates Refused
Balmoral Gardens Gillingham	46	—
Health Centre, Rainham	19	—
Total	65	—

STATISTICAL TABLES

TABLE I

MEDICAL INSPECTION OF PUPILS ATTENDING MAINTAINED PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS

A.—Periodic Medical Inspections

Number of inspections in the prescribed Groups :—

Entrants	1,120
Second Age Group	1,057
Third Age Group	672
Total	2,849
Additional Periodic Inspections ...	363
Grand Total	3,212

B.—Other Inspections

Number of Special Inspections	1,064
Number of Re-Inspections	1,312
Total	2,376

C.—Pupils found to require treatment

Group (1)	For defective vision (excluding squint) (2)	For any of the other conditions recorded in Table IIA (3)	Total individual pupils (4)
Entrants	5	112	114
Second Age Group	65	13	76
Third Age Group	28	3	30
Total (prescribed groups)	98	128	220
Add'n'l Periodic Inspections	28	5	32
Grand Total	126	133	252

**D.—CLASSIFICATION OF THE PHYSICAL CONDITION OF PUPILS
INSPECTED IN THE AGE GROUPS RECORDED IN TABLE IA**

Age Groups Inspected	Number of Pupils Inspected	Satisfactory		Unsatisfactory	
		No.	% of Col. (2)	No.	% of Col. (2)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Entrants	1,120	1,042	93.04	78	6.96
Second Age Group...	1,057	975	92.24	82	7.76
Leavers	672	649	96.58	23	3.42
Additional Periodic Inspections ...	363	318	87.60	45	12.40
Total ...	3,212	2,984	92.90	228	7.10

TABLE II
INFESTATION WITH VERMIN

(i) Total number of individual examinations of pupils in schools by the school nurses or other authorised persons	...	...	...	...	...	...	17,179
(ii) Total number of <i>individual</i> pupils found to be infested	...	...	...	...	...	...	167
(iii) Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing notices were issued (Section 54 (2), Education Act, 1944)	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
(iv) Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing orders were issued (Section 54 (3), Education Act, 1944)	...	...	...	...	...	...	—

TABLE III
RETURN OF DEFECTS FOUND BY MEDICAL INSPECTION
IN THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1956
A. PERIODIC INSPECTION

Defect or Disease	Periodic Inspections				TOTAL (including all other age groups inspected	
	Entrants		Leavers		Re- quiring Treat- ment	Re- quiring Observ- ation
	Re- quiring Treat- ment	Re- quiring Observ- ation	Re- quiring Treat- ment	Re- quiring Observ- ation		
Skin	4	4	—	—	4	4
Eyes—						
a. Vision	5	3	28	1	126	22
b. Squint	31	11	—	—	33	13
c. Other	2	2	1	1	5	6
Ears—						
a. Hearing	—	15	—	—	1	18
b. Otitis Media	—	—	—	—	—	—
c. Other	—	2	—	—	—	3
Nose and Throat ...	47	98	1	—	57	116
Speech... ..	16	30	—	—	17	31
Lymphatic Glands ...	—	3	—	—	—	5
Heart	—	11	—	1	—	19
Lungs	5	12	—	—	5	12
Developmental—						
a. Hernia	—	6	1	—	2	9
b. Other	—	—	—	—	—	—
Orthopaedic—						
a. Posture	—	4	—	—	—	9
b. Feet	3	18	—	—	3	25
c. Other	1	—	—	—	1	—
Nervous system—						
a. Epilepsy	—	—	—	1	—	2
b. Other	—	—	—	—	—	—
Psychological—						
a. Development ...	1	—	—	—	2	1
b. Stability	—	4	—	1	1	6
Abdomen	—	2	—	—	—	2
Other	2	16	—	3	2	25

TABLE III—continued

B. SPECIAL INSPECTIONS

Defect or Disease	Special Inspections	
	Requiring Treatment	Requiring Observation
Skin	107	—
Eyes—		
a. Vision	102	1
b. Squint	5	—
c. Other	88	6
Ears—		
a. Hearing... ..	3	1
b. Otitis Media ...	15	1
c. Other	24	—
Nose and Throat ...	8	1
Speech... ..	2	—
Lymphatic Glands ...	—	—
Heart	—	1
Lungs	—	—
Developmental—		
a. Hernia	—	—
b. Other	—	—
Orthopaedic—		
a. Posture... ..	—	—
b. Feet	3	—
c. Other	4	—
Nervous system—		
a. Epilepsy	—	—
b. Other	—	—
Psychological—		
a. Development ...	2	1
b. Stability	—	—
Abdomen	—	—
Other	37 ²	2

TABLE IV.

**TREATMENT OF PUPILS ATTENDING MAINTAINED
PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS
(INCLUDING SPECIAL SCHOOLS)**

GROUP 1.—EYE DISEASES, DEFECTIVE VISION AND SQUINT

	Number of cases known to have been dealt with	
	By the Authority	Otherwise
External and other, excluding errors of refraction and squint	84	2
Errors of refraction (including squint) ...	904	26
Total ...	988	28
Number of pupils for whom spectacles were prescribed	306	—

GROUP 2.—DISEASES AND DEFECTS OF EAR, NOSE AND THROAT

	Number of cases known to have been treated	
	By the Authority	Otherwise
Received operative treatment		
(a) for diseases of the ear	—	—
(b) for adenoids and chronic tonsillitis...	—	86
(c) for other nose and throat conditions	—	2
Received other forms of treatment ...	45	5
Total ...	45	93
Total number of pupils in schools who are known to have been provided with hearing aids		
(a) in 1956	—	1
(b) in previous years	—	3

GROUP 3.—ORTHOPAEDIC AND POSTURAL DEFECTS

	By the Authority	Otherwise
Number of pupils known to have been treated at clinics or out-patient departments	—	7

GROUP 4.—DISEASES OF THE SKIN

(excluding uncleanness, for which see Table II.)

					Number of cases treated or under treatment during the year by the Authority
Ringworm— (i) Scalp	...	...	...		—
(ii) Body	...	...	...		9
Scabies	...	...	...	...	—
Impetigo	...	...	...	...	46
Other skin diseases	...	...	...	...	54
Total					109

GROUP 5.—CHILD GUIDANCE TREATMENT

Number of pupils treated at Child Guidance Clinics under arrangements made by the Authority	4
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

GROUP 6.—SPEECH THERAPY

Number of pupils treated by Speech Therapists under arrangements made by the Authority	13
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

GROUP 7.—OTHER TREATMENT GIVEN

(a) Number of cases of miscellaneous minor ailments treated by the Authority	...	397
(b) Pupils who received convalescent treatment under School Health Service arrangements	...	1
(c) Pupils who received B.C.G. vaccina- tion	...	19
(d) Other than (a) (b) and (c) above 1. Catarrh, Sore throats, etc.	...	1

TABLE V.

DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT CARRIED OUT
BY THE AUTHORITY

(1)	Number of pupils inspected by the Authority's Dental Officers—		
(a)	Periodic age groups	1,426	
(b)	Specials	4,982	
	Total (1) ...	6,408	
(2)	Number found to require treatment ...	4,776	
(3)	Number referred for treatment	4,776	
(4)	Number actually treated	3,176	
(5)	Attendances made by pupils for treatment	6,328	
(6)	Half-days devoted to : Inspection ...	10	
	Treatment ...	732	
	Total (6) ...	742	
(7)	Fillings : Permanent Teeth	3,199	
	Temporary Teeth	211	
	Total (7) ...	3,410	
(8)	Number of teeth filled: Permanent Teeth	2,944	
	Temporary Teeth	192	
	Total (8) ...	3,136	
(9)	Extractions : Permanent Teeth	1,031	
	Temporary Teeth	3,089	
	Total (9) ...	4,120	
(10)	Administration of general anaesthetics for extraction	2,130	
(11)	Other operations : Permanent Teeth ...	249	
	Temporary Teeth ...	13	
	Total (11) ...	262	

